



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TWO MEXICAN NATIONALS CONVICTED OF ILLEGAL ALIEN HOSTAGE CONSPIRACY

Victim held at gunpoint; ransom demanded for release

TUCSON, Ariz. – Two Mexican nationals were convicted, after a 7-day jury trial, on Nov. 3 of federal conspiracy, hostage taking and alien harboring charges. Carlos Calixtro-Bustamone was found guilty of conspiracy, hostage taking and harboring illegal aliens. Yuris Bonilla-Guizar was convicted of conspiracy to commit hostage taking and harboring illegal aliens.

The two defendants were accused of keeping a 32-year-old male victim hostage in a trailer for four days and demanding money for his release.

On Sept. 22, 2009, the victim, an illegal alien, and four other illegal aliens were dropped off at the defendants' trailer by an unknown co-conspirator. The men had been guided through the mountains in Nogales, Sonora, over the border to a car that drove them to the trailer.

The defendants forced the victim at gunpoint to call his family every few hours and request \$2,300 for his release. His clothes and shoes were taken to prevent him from escaping. The victim was rescued through a BORTAC hostage rescue operation. BORTAC is the U.S. Border Patrol's tactical unit.

The case was tried before United States District Court Judge Frank Zapata. Sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 12, 2011. A conviction for the conspiracy, hostage taking, and harboring illegal aliens offenses carries a minimum 24 years and maximum penalty of life in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Zapata will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Special Agent David Slagle and Special Agent Jeff Ellis of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement conducted the investigation leading to the guilty verdict. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kristen Brook Kelly and John R. Evans handled the prosecution.

CASE NUMBER:CR-09-2343-FRZ-GEE

RELEASE NUMBER: 2010-244(Bonilla)

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